

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
APRIL 29, 2014

MINUTES

The April 29, 2014 meeting of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission met on the 3rd floor Conference room at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Angela Spencer at 7:00pm.

An Invitation to recite the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. The following members were present at the meeting:

Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, Jack Thomas, Melissa Meath, Felicia Turner, Oladimeji Ibraheem, Annette Breiling, Lisa Clark, David Kaye, Irene Packer-Halsey, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett, Georgia Anne Mc Cauley; Kathleen Hartsock, Frederick County Public Schools; and Donna Kuzemchak, City of Frederick

The following members were absent: Yemi Adeoye, Mari Lee

The following members of the public were present:

Chief Thomas Ledwell, FPD Lt. Joseph Evans, FPD

Acting Sergeant Angela Waechter, FPD

Captain Patrick Grossman, FPD

Anastasia Rosen-Jones

Linda Young

III. The February 25, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved with a motion from Melissa and a second from Lisa. The March 25, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved with corrections on Page 1 (Duckett, spelling correction), page 3(Melissa spelling correction) and page 4 (funding is provided from the general budget) with a motion from Kavonte and a second from Irene.

IV. Comments from the public

Chief Thomas Ledwell and Lt. Matt Evans presented the Frederick Police Department's 2012 & 2013 Annual Report to the members of the Commission. They reported that due to recent recruitment measures put into place at the Department applicants have gone from 500 to 2,000 per year. They are continuing to look at recruitment and adjusting as needed to try to encourage individuals to apply and follow through with the process. The hiring process was explained. The PAL program and how it impacts youth in the community was also a topic of discussion.

Anastasia Rosen-Jones attended the meeting because she is interested in assisting with HRC events and activities. She will be added to the Community Partners e-mail list

V. Officers Reports

Executive Committee

HRC elections – a nominating committee has been appointed to create a slate of officers for the upcoming year. The group will get together to discuss the slate and make recommendations.

Angela will be scheduling a tour of the Frederick County Adult Detention Center; she will try to schedule the tour on an Executive Board Meeting evening.

Treasurer's Report – Jack reported that he made a report Saturday and the figures are the same.

NAC Updates – David stated that he sent out the NAC information to the commission over the weekend. There is some concern about attending NAC meetings when you do not live in a NAC area, although the Commission would like to become involved with all of the NAC's. Michelle Bowman will be invited to the next meeting so she will be available to assist with further discussions. Michelle is the contact person for the NAC's.

Community Awareness:

Pangea Festival – planning for 2015 – Angela stated that she would like the Commission to be involved with the planning for the event; she will update the commissioners with meeting information as it becomes available.

Discriminatory Language – Irene created folders for the IRC to look at. She would like the committee to make a determination regarding a stand for the HRC to take.

Advertising Policy – The policy which was approved by Linda Thall in the County legal department was distributed among the members to look at.

VI. Committee Reports

a) Community Relations Committee

Lisa is now the Chair of the CRC – She will schedule meeting as needed.

The upcoming event is the Naturalization Ceremony Tuscarora High School - October 4, 2014

b) Government Relations Committee

Legislative Updates

Melissa reported on 4 Legislative Acts that all go into effect on 10/1/2014

- SB212 – Fairness for all Marylanders act of 2014
- SB454 – Criminal Law – Child Kidnapping and Prostitution Penalty
- HB1349 – Public Safety Diversity Act of 2014
- SB542 – Law enforcement officers Entrance Level and in service requirements – Christopher's Law

c) Internal Relations Committee

Fair Housing 2014/Fair Housing Commission Joint effort – Angela reported that she attended the proclamation for the City.

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business

IX. HRD Director's Report

Miles reported that it is good to see so many people attending tonight.

Referring to Don Sterling and Cliven Bundy - Miles remarked that these incidents are reminders that although we have come a long way, there is still work to be done.

Miles reported that he is receiving a lot of requests for help from organizations and businesses that need help with recruiting and hiring minority individuals.

X. Announcements

The Commission for Women will be holding 3 forums on the new Charter Government; the next one will be at C. Burr Artz library Monday May 5th from 6- 7pm.

In response to a KKK rally in Cumberland, hundreds of citizens gathered in the area of the stage at Canal Place in opposition to the KKK activity. After the KKK participants had driven away, the group at Canal Place including a couple of elected officials walked from there to the courthouse in a show of quiet, unified opposition to the hate group's presence in Cumberland.

The National day of Prayer Breakfast will be held at Dutch's Daughter on May 1 at 7am and a youth Rally will be held at the Baker Park Band Shell at 6:30.

The May Fest in Frederick will be held Saturday May 3.

COVE Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism will present the 2014 Hate Crimes Summit on May 6, 2014.

Nature Fest at Catoctin Creek Nature Center May 3 from 10:00 – 4:00

American Cancer Center Relay for Life– Friday May 9, 2014 at 7pm at the Banner School

An open house and celebration for the year round opening of the Alan P. Linton Emergency Shelter will be held on May 10 from 11-2.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Kavonte Duckett

The Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless will present an opportunity for you to hear from your Council candidates on issues related to poverty and homelessness in Frederick County Wednesday May 21 at 7pm at the Faux School. Kavonte has a brochure that he will distribute to the commission regarding the change to Charter Government in Frederick County.

Oladimeji Ibraheem - recently joined the toastmasters club

Francisco – Happy to be a part of the group

Donna – Thank you to the police department for their presentation

Felicia Turner – Saturday's retreat was fantastic.

There will be an event at the Shell car Wash on 40 the proceeds to help association for kids in foster care. They will be collecting items at the event as well to go in bags for the foster kids. Angela will send the information out to the group.

Irene Packer Halsey– reported that she has been a board member for PAL for 8 years.

Annette reported that on May 17th starting at 11am and ending at 8pm the Second Annual Festa Italiana Frederick will be held at Rose Hill Manor.

May 25th the Asian Heritage Center will sponsor an Asian Heritage Day event at Baker Park starting at 11am.

Jack Thomas passed out the Transaction Detail report for the commission. He said he looks forward to the police report every year. It is a good thing and the Department is actively pursuing the results. He also asked when there will be an end point and estimated achievement of the goals of the department. There was discussion among the member regarding how long the department will need to report to the HRC.

Kathleen Hartsock

The public school system is sponsoring a job fair on site this Friday (their first ever). It will be at the School Board in the Board Room.

Pat Fleet reported that the commission received a hand written Thank you card from one of the students that received the Henry Templeton Award (Jessica Bayuk).

David Kaye stated he enjoyed the retreat last Saturday. He has scheduled a meeting with the Association of Realtors (FCAR) to talk about a partnership regarding Fair Housings.

Lisa Clark reported she is will work on securing Michelle Bowman for the next meeting to discuss NAC's and how the members of the commission can become involved.

Tonya Amedon reported she enjoyed the retreat. She commended the Frederick Police Department for their report and said she feels they are headed in the right direction.

Angela Spencer reported that she gave out candles on Saturday as a reminder that Darkness is sometimes still present. If the light goes out we need to relight it.

XII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.